(b) if so, the price difference between Indian cardamom and the cardamom from Guatemala; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of cardamom growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Price difference between Indian cardamom and the Guatemalan cardamom is given below:

Grade	Price of India Cardamom		Price of Guatemalan Cardamom	
	(Rs./Kg)	(US$/Kg)	(Rs./Kg)	(US$/Kg)
AGEB	695	17.6	524	13.25
AGB	630	15.9	484	12.25
AGS	615	15.6	444	11.25
AGS-I	595	15.1	361	9.13
Un-graded	599	15.2	310	7.86

(c) 70% duty is levied on cardamom imported. The Spices Board is sending the domestic price informaiton on a weekly basis to all the major Customs to alert them on the import of cheap Guatemalan cardamom. The Spices Board is also monitoring the import of cardamom on a monthly basis.

India's tobacco export

638. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India' tobacco export in the international market during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that India's tobacco attracts lower price as compared to the Brazillian tobacco;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for India not being able to achieve her proportionate share of tobacco used in the international cigarette markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The share of India's tobacco export in international market for last three years is as follow:

Year	India's total tobacco exports (Mkgs)	World exports (estimated) (Mkgs)	% share
2004-05	138	2103	6.56%
2005-06	142	2103	6.75%
2006-07	153	2103	7.28%

(b) Yes, Sir. Average prices fetched by growers of tobacco in Brazil and by growers of FCV tobacco in India for last three years are as follows:

(US $/Kg)

Year	Brazil	India
2005	1.76	0.92
2006	1.90	1.03
2007	2.00	1.30

(c) In the international market, Brazilian tobaccos are classified as 'flavorful' tobaccos, while Indian tobaccos are classified under 'filler' category. In the world markets, flavourful tobacco fetches higher prices than that of filler tobacco and this the main reason for pricing Indian tobaccos below Brazilian tobaccos.

(d) More than 60% of the total production of cigarette tobaccos in India is exported. India emerged as the world second exporter of FCV tobacco after Brazil in 2005. Thus India has certainly achieved its proportionate share in the international cigarette market and is poised to further improve its position in the changing world tobacco scenario.

Production of cardamom

639. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total production of cardamom in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of cardamom exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Cardamom production is rapidly decreasing in the country; if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to introduce cultivation of cardamom in other parts of the country particularly Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) the State-wise production details of cardamom (small & large) during the last three years is given below: